

REMARKS

Applicant requests favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection set forth in the above-identified Office Action in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks.

Claims 10 and 12-14 are now pending in the application, with claim 10 being the only independent claim. Claim 15 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Claim 10 has been amended. Support for the amendment can be found throughout the originally-filed disclosure, including, for example, in Figures 6 and 7, which show the coil 21 having a rectangular cross section, a linear portion, and a curl portion. Accordingly, Applicant submits the amendment includes no new matter.

Claims 10 and 12-14 are rejected in the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. Specifically, the Office Action asserts that, in general, the term "generatrix" is only defined in terms of geometry, and that the specification of the present application does not provide a different definition of this term. The Office Action further indicates that this term may constitute new matter.

Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. Nevertheless, without conceding the propriety of the rejection, and solely to expedite prosecution, Applicant has amended claim 10 so as to delete the term "generatrix." Accordingly, Applicant submits the rejection has been obviated.

Claims 10 and 12-14 are rejected in the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Yokoyama et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,340,810).

Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. Nevertheless, without conceding the

propriety of the rejection and solely to expedite prosecution, Applicant has amended independent claim 10 so as even further clarify features of the invention, and submits that independent claim 10 is patentably distinguishable from Yokoyama et al. for at least the following reasons.

Amended independent claim 10 recites an image heating apparatus comprising, inter alia, a cylindrical-shaped rotatable conductive member and a coil formed with a conductor that has a rectangular cross section, with the coil having a linear portion parallel to a rotation axis of the cylindrical-shaped rotatable conductive member and a curl portion corresponding to a curvature of the cylindrical-shaped rotatable conductive member.

Applicant submits that Yokoyama et al. does not disclose or suggest a coil with the combination of features recited in amended independent claim 10. For example, Yokoyama et al. does not disclose or suggest a coil having a rectangular cross section. Instead, as shown in Figure 3 of Yokoyama et al. for example, a coil 42 according has a circular cross section.

Applicant submits that Yokoyama et al. also does not disclose or suggest a coil having both a linear portion parallel to a rotation axis of a cylindrical-shaped rotatable conductive member and a curl portion corresponding to a curvature of the cylindrical-shaped rotatable conductive member. For example, in the embodiment disclosed in Figure 2 of Yokoyama et al., coil 42 is disposed in circular manner wrapped around bobbin 41 in roller 11. The coil 42 does not have both a linear portion parallel to a rotation axis of roller 11 as well as a curl portion corresponding to a curvature of the roller 11.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that Yokoyama et al. does not disclose or suggest an image heating apparatus as recited in amendment independent claim 10.

Dependent claims 12-14 should also be deemed allowable, in their own right, for defining

other patentable features of Applicant's invention in addition to those recited in independent claim 10. Further individual consideration of all of the dependent claims is requested.

Applicant respectfully submits that all outstanding matters in this application have been addressed and that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the above application are respectfully sought.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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